IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-9 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A device driver apparatus, which is connected to an initiator via a bus, transmitting/receiving <u>a</u> signal to/from a process simulating an I/O device, comprising:

an adapter transmitting/receiving <u>a</u> command or <u>a set of</u> data to/from the initiator via the bus using a predetermined protocol; and

a driver, which is arranged between said adapter and a ~~PIO~~<u>pseudo I/O</u> process simulating the I/O device, notifying <u>the pseudo I/O process of</u> one or ~~more~~<u>both</u> of the command and the<u>set of</u> data <u>transmitted</u> from said adapter, ~~and also~~notifying said adapter of one or ~~more~~ <u>both</u> of status and <u>another set of</u> data <u>notified</u> from the ~~PIO~~<u>pseudo I/O</u> process<u>, and performing a queuing process when receiving a plurality of commands from the pseudo I/O process</u>.

2. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined protocol is a SCSI protocol or ~~a~~ <u>an encapsulation</u> protocol <u>consisting of a protocol that encapsulates SCSI information but not consisting of</u> ~~into which~~ the SCSI protocol ~~is encapsulated~~.

3. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said adapter notifies said driver of <u>the</u> command upon receipt of the command from the initiator, said driver notifies the ~~PIO~~<u>pseudo I/O</u> process of the ~~notified~~command <u>after receipt of notification</u>, the ~~PIO~~<u>pseudo I/O</u> process returns <u>an exchange</u> status ~~being a reply~~ to said driver, said driver notifies said adapter of the status, and said adapter returns the status to the initiator.

4. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said adapter notifies said driver of command upon receipt of the command from the initiator,

said driver notifies the ~~PIO~~<u>pseudo I/O</u> process of the notified command,

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the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process ~~returns a buffer address to said driver after preparing~~ prepares a set of data, ~~and setting~~ stores the set of the data at the buffer address in a buffer, and returns the buffer address to said driver,

said driver sets the buffer address in a register of said adapter, and

said adapter extracts the set of the data from the buffer address ~~set~~ in the register, and transmits the ~~extracted~~ set of the data to the initiator.

5. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said adapter notifies said driver of the command upon receipt of the command from the initiator,

said driver notifies the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process of the ~~notified~~ command,

the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process prepares a buffer, and returns a buffer address to said driver,

said driver sets the buffer address in a register of said adapter,

said adapter stores a set of data that is ~~requested of~~ received from the initiator ~~and received at~~ by issuing a data request using the buffer address ~~set~~ in the register, and notifies said driver that the set of data has been stored,

said driver notifies asynchronously the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process that the data has been received,

the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process extracts the data from the buffer, and returns a response status ~~being a reply~~ to said driver,

said driver sets the status in a register of said adapter, and

said adapter returns the status to the initiator.

6. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driver is configured by a low-order driver for said adapter, a high-order driver for the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process, and a medium-order driver transmitting/receiving ~~a~~ the signal between the low-order driver and the high-order driver.

7. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~PIO~~ pseudo I/O process notifies said adapter or said driver of an error exclusively associated with an encapsulation protocol consisting of a protocol that encapsulates SCSI information but not consisting of a SCSI protocol, and said adapter or said driver makes the ~~notified~~ error occur.

8. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1 5, wherein the PIO pseudo I/O process simulates an a specified actual I/O device by transmitting/receiving the status or the data of a the specified I/O device.

9. (currently amended) The device driver apparatus according to claim 1 5, wherein the PIO pseudo I/O process simulates an error test of an a specified actual I/O device by making a specified an error occur, which is exclusively associated with an encapsulation protocol consisting of a protocol that encapsulates SCSI information but not consisting of a SCSI protocol, and is specified when transmitting/receiving the status or data of a the specified I/O device is occurs transmitted or received.

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